Seeking to Become Ever More International

In his incoming remarks, CSE President Richard Horton said that “CSE is edging toward being a truly global organization” and called for further such development. Our organization and its periodical have long shown international inclinations, and we at Science Editor seek to become ever more global in our content and contributorship.

In 1959, the inaugural issue of Science Editor’s first forerunner, the Conference of Biological Editors Newsletter, already evidenced international interests. Topics of proposed CBE studies that it listed included problems and procedures in editing and publishing in the USSR and China and the international distribution of American biology serials. Federal funding was noted to be available for “indexing, reproducing, cataloging, and abstracting technical and scientific materials published outside the United States”. Another piece summarized criticisms made in an article on dissemination of scientific and technical information in the USSR. International topics also were addressed in other early issues.

Volumes of the Newsletter’s successor, CBE Views, from some 2 decades ago show international attention as well. The fall 1984 issue features an article, “Publication of Research Results in Developing Countries: Possibilities of Assistance”, by two members of the Developing Nations Task Force formed at the 1983 CBE annual meeting. Other topics of pieces from the middle 1980s include scholarly publishing in Australia and New Zealand, English as the international language of science, and authors for whom English was a second language. An announcement noted that two books published by the Council had been translated into Japanese.

Since 2000, when CBE became CSE and CBE Views was succeeded by Science Editor, the global emphasis has intensified. Thus, in 2005, our pages included an article about the first decade of the World Association of Medical Editors; pieces about formats of Arabic and Korean names; summaries of conferences in China, India, and Mexico; a report on the CSE-managed partnership project to assist African journals; and an account of the annual-meeting session “Scientific Authorship and Editing in the Developing World”. Likewise, authors of pieces appearing in 2005 came from a variety of countries.

Science Editor, like CSE as a whole, is striving to become yet more global in scope. In the current issue, science editor Elliott Churchill presents perspectives from her extensive experience in teaching internationally. Other contributors to this issue include Ana Marusic, of the Croatian Medical Journal, who prepared the report on the Fifth International Congress on Peer Review and Biomedical Publication. The board-meeting highlights (page 67) and committee roundup (pages 68-71) note some internationally oriented activities, and the Other Than Editing column profiles an opera-singing British editor. Later this year, we look forward to publishing additional pieces by international authors and on international and cross-cultural topics.

Making Science Editor yet more global depends largely on CSE members. We encourage readers from everywhere to contribute their ideas and, better yet, their writing. Only through broad involvement can we become a truly global publication.

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